

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GOTEBO 00114 031246Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /064 W
-----031250Z 108726 /47

R 030900Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL GOTEBORG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0227
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS GOTEBORG 0114

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: OLOF PALME ADDRESSES MAY DAY RALLY IN GOTEBORG

1. SPEAKING BEFORE A CROWD ESTIMATED AT 40,000 PERSONS (AND REPORTEDLY THE LARGEST EVER GATHERED IN GOTEBORG FOR A POLITICAL RALLY) SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME ATTACKED THE NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT OF THORBJORN FALLDIN FOR ITS "IRRESPONSIBLE" POLICIES. THE CROWD REPEATEDLY CHEERED PALME --WHO WAS SPEAKING AT HIS FIRST MAY DAY RALLY AS OPPOSITION LEADER -- AS HE ACCUSED THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT OF LACKING A COHERENT ENERGY POLICY AND OF FOISTING HIGHER TAXES AND INFLATION UPON THE SWEDISH WORKER. CITING THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OVER NUCLEAR ENERGY, PALME CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING "BILLIONS OF KRONOR FOR NUCLEAR POWER INSTALLATIONS THAT WILL NOT BE PUT INTO OPERATION". REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW ENERGY PROGRAM, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER CLAIMED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD PRESENTED A SIMILAR POLICY TO THE SWEDISH PUBLIC TWO YEARS AGO.

2. JUST BEFORE HE BEGAN HIS SPEECH, PALME WAS PELTED WITH AN
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PAGE 02 GOTEBO 00114 031246Z

EGG THROWN BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT WHICH SPLATTERED ON HIS SUIT. JOKING WITH REPORTERS LATER, PALME SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN MORE THAN 10 YEARS -- BEFORE HE BECAME PRIME MINISTER -- SINCE HE HAD LAST BEEN THE OBJECT OF SUCH AN ATTACK.

3. SOME OF THE OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES ALSO HELD MAY DAY RALLIES IN GOTEBORG. APPROXIMATELY 4,000 PERSONS HEARD THE LOCAL

LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) ATTACK THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT, WHILE ROUGHLY ANOTHER 2,000 ATTENDED A RALLY OF THE EXTREME LEFT PARTY KFML(R). THE MAOIST SWEDISH KOMMUNIST PARTY (SKP) MET UNDER THE NAME OF MAY FIRST UNION FRONT AND LISTENED TO HARANGUES BY A WORKER FROM THE LOCAL VOLVO PLANT. THE SPLINTER GROUP OF THE VPK, THE NEWLY FORMED "K", APPARENTLY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS TO JUSTIFY AN OUT-SIDE DEMONSTRATION, AND INSTEAD MET IN A CLOSED HALL, WHERE M.P. ALF LOVENBORG FROM LULEA CRITICIZED THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FOR NOT "ABOLISHING" CAPITALISM WHILE THEY WERE IN POWER. "K" CHAIRMAN ROLF HAGEL, WHO IS FROM GOTEBOG, CHOSE TO SPEAK IN THE "K" STRONGHOLD OF LULEA RATHER THAN IN HIS HOMETOWN. OWENS

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